

St Mary the Virgin Alveley

Annual PCC & Trustee Report for year ended 31/12/2021

The church of St Mary the Virgin, Alveley, is a Grade II* listed building within the village conservation area. The church dates back to 1140 and is of considerable architectural beauty and historical interest. The United Benefice consists of the churches of St Mary the Virgin, Alveley, and St Andrew, Quatt. It is in the Bridgnorth Deanery within the Diocese of Hereford and situated in the county of Shropshire.

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Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are either ex-officio (Clergy, Readers, Church Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, Alveley Old Chapel Manager) – the latter because Alveley Old Chapel is under the ownership and jurisdiction of the church. Others are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representative Rules.

During 2021-2022 the following have served as PCC members:

Incumbent: Rev Neil Dunlop (until Nov 2021)

Retired Clergy: Rev Dr Wendy Rylance

Reader: Mrs Sue Chidwick

Church Wardens: Mr Peter Fry

Mrs Jenny Sirrell

Deanery Synod Reps: Mrs Kirsty Ritzenthaler (Safeguarding Officer)

Vacancy

Vacancy

Alveley Old Chapel Manager Mr John Lowe

Elected Members: Mr Dale Chidwick (Deputy Churchwarden / Electoral Roll Officer)

Mr Fred Cooper

Mrs Pauline Cooper

Mrs Julie Fry

Mrs Hilary Fleming (PCC Secretary)

Mr David Hampson

Mrs Jackie Hampson

Mrs Anne Simms (PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Officer)

Mrs Penny Jenkins

Mrs Lynn Madden

Mrs Jean Marshall

Prof Paul Rylance

Mrs Carol Wall (Deputy Churchwarden)

Other Officers: Ms Lisa Dhillon (Independent Examiner)

Mrs Vickie Dunlop (Parish Administrator until Nov 2021)

Aims and Purposes of the PCC: St Mary's PCC has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is now a Registered Charity.

We have continued to enjoy working with Rev Neil Dunlop and his wife Vickie within the joint benefice. We have been blessed by his ministry and that of Vickie, not only to regular churchgoers but to the whole community. They have been greatly regarded by the whole parish. Vickie continued in the role of Parish Administrator; on an informal basis again this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and closure of Alveley Old Chapel for the period of the

pandemic. We were saddened to hear of Neil's decision to move on to the Chaplaincy of Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust in November. We are immensely grateful to them both for all they have contributed to parish life in their time with us and wish them and the family well for the future. We will be holding an open parish meeting to discuss our pastoral needs on May 14th in the Old Chapel and hope to hold interviews for a new incumbent in September. Our Retired Clergy, Rev Dr Wendy Rylance, has undertaken to cover services at both Alveley and Quatt and for this we are extremely grateful to her. We are also grateful to Reader Sue Chidwick and others who have stepped forward to lead and take part in Sunday services so that worship can take place in church each Sunday. They have also been responsible for providing online worship when we were not able to gather in the church building due to Covid19 restrictions. We have not yet been able to reinstate Sunday 8am Holy Communion and the popular Wednesday Holy Communion services. We have recently begun to operate the full 20/20/20 and Family Services along with refreshment provision. We have recently been greatly saddened to learn of the death of Reader Emeritus Barrie Jenkins and remain very grateful for his service to our church.

Objectives and Activities: The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship and become part of the parish community of Alveley. To facilitate this work it is important to maintain the fabric of the church. The Quinquennial Report highlighted various issues to be addressed and these continue to be attended to by the Churchwardens. This year has continued to be challenging and demanding on all levels. Services and worship have had to continue online as buildings have been closed again due to Covid regulations and online services have been aired via our website and Facebook page and these have reached a world-wide congregation. These have been led by Neil and Vickie and various members of the congregation to whom we are very grateful. As regulations allowed socially-distanced services have been held in the Church with consequent extra cleaning duties. We are indebted to the Rector and Wardens for carrying out this task. An online prayer meeting continued to be held each Sunday evening with grateful thanks to Vickie for leading this. Funerals and weddings have continued to take place as regulations have allowed. All other outreach and social activities have been curtailed including those at Alveley Old Chapel which has had to remain closed throughout the period of the pandemic. JL has been appointed as the new Manager following the retirement of SP. Full opening resumed at the beginning of March 2022 and we hope that use of the facility will grow.

The PCC has been able to meet in person following lockdowns although it has not been able to adhere to the regular pattern of bi-monthly meetings.

It is hoped that as regulations have eased we will be able to resume our usual activities. We acknowledge that this will not be an easy task and that many of our community have endured loss and loneliness and suffered in many ways. Hopefully we can retain some of the technological methods of communication we have come to rely on during the pandemic. We have been cheered by the fact that several younger people in the congregation have recently come forward to take on responsibility for elements of our worship.

To ensure that all are cared for safely, we have a Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Kirsty Ritzenthaler, and any concerns over personal welfare and safety should be addressed to her.

Worship Planning: has continued to take place to plan Sunday services, making the best use of gifts and learning from each other.

Pastoral Care and Visiting: has had to take place technologically and at a distance but is now resuming in person.

Prayer Ministry: praying with and for people at any time. People in need are considered at each PCC meeting and a prayer meeting has taken place online on Sunday evenings.

Worship and Music: This has been limited to a small music group at services and the use of recorded music. Full congregational hymn singing and the playing of the organ has resumed along with occasional participation of the Choir

Children and Youth: Sunshine corner, our parent, carer, baby and toddler group has resumed on Monday mornings and it is hoped to reintroduce Messy Church and Youth Club provision. The Open the Book sessions at Alveley Primary School have resumed.

Small groups: held in homes, draw adults to explore the Christian faith and lead them to learn more from Bible study and discussion. These have continued with appropriate Covid precautions and personal contact has been maintained informally.

Men's outreach: "Breakfast in the Old Chapel" a meal and an outside speaker to present men with the message of Christ outside the church and a regular "Chaps' Lunch" in local pubs, fostering fellowship and social needs, have been very popular pre-pandemic but sadly these activities have been casualties of the pandemic. However it is hoped to recommence them when possible.

Alveley Old Chapel: a church-owned and governed establishment in the redundant Methodist Chapel which had continued to grow in strength and popularity with the whole village. Coffee, tea, cakes and light lunches are available on three days a week and there is a lovely garden to sit in on sunny days. AOC supports itself financially and a system of joint accounting with church has been established so that the Treasurer can easily oversee finances. A joint Management Committee has been established, consisting of Jenny Sirrell, Kirsty Ritzenthaler, SP and AL. We are very grateful to the team of volunteers who work so hard for its success. Other village organisations (Chapel Crafters, Music Club, Alveley Singers) and the Be Cafe have used this as a venue as well and other social events have been held here. The PCC has held its meetings here and the Parish Administrator used the office facilities. AOC is also available for private hire. It is hoped that all these activities will be able to resume as soon as possible. This has become a wonderful use of a redundant building and we continue to be grateful for the generous legacy which enabled the Chapel to be purchased by the church, thus providing the whole community with hospitality and fellowship and a continuity of life for a much-loved building. Plaques recording the legacy and giving the mission statement are on display

New Life Nepal: We continue to support this charitable trust, along with supporters in Thame, Tupsley, and another parish in Hereford diocese. We receive regular news and updates at PCC meetings. We are endeavouring to strengthen the link with NLN and regular meetings are held with representatives of the supporting parishes. Penny Jenkins has continued to maintain our contact with the trust and we thank her for this, although the main management is based in Thame.

Church Attendance: The Electoral Roll is currently 84, entitling us to 3 Deanery Synod representatives. Church services averaged around 30 with a similar number sharing online services when they were shared. We continue to work with and share events at St Andrew's, Quatt. Online services were a shared provision.

Fundraising and Social Events: We are still very aware of our ambitious parish promise made a few years ago and had to reduce our offer last year as it was felt that the sum promised previously could not be sustained and we have continued this this year. We are very grateful to those in the congregation who have arranged to make their offering by Direct Debit thereby ensuring a regular income from these sources which has helped enormously in ensuring regular income. Obviously there has been no opportunity for additional fundraising again this year.

Compiling this report has made so obvious the varied and vibrant activities in which our church family has engaged. We hope and pray that steadily through the coming year we are able to resume these activities with renewed enthusiasm and commitment. Many members of the congregation have continued to help with ongoing practical tasks of maintenance and caring and we would again like to take this opportunity to thank **everyone** who plays a part in our church life. Without everyone's efforts in countless ways, our church would not be the spiritual, caring and loving community it is, seeking to make God's kingdom here in Alveley. Thank you so much to you all for all that you do, especially during these difficult times.

Hilary Fleming (PCC Secretary)

March 2022

Financial Review for Year Ended 31/12/21

Based on the draft accounts, donations from regular giving, church collections & fundraising are up £4k compared to last year. We are very grateful to our congregation for continuing their financial support through such difficult times. In addition, fee income was up almost £3k, with the welcome return of a few weddings during 2021. However, overall income was down c£18k from last year. The main reasons being:

- a) £9.2k Gift Aid reclaim in 2020 (re tax year ending 05/04/20). There has been a delay in completion of the next Gift Aid claim, while we improve supporting documentation, and it is hoped that the next claim will be completed by summer 2022.
- b) £5.45k received from the Howard Thompson Trust in 2020.
- c) £5k council grant received by AOC in 2020.
- d) £2.9k received in 2020 from the Sheila Margaret Maiden Loan Trust, together with £1.5k of unclaimed verger fees 'donated' in 2020.
- e) £1.4k decrease in AOC income. Although open for a similar amount of time to 2020, there was the obvious cautiousness that comes after a pandemic.

Costs incurred were £14k lower than the previous year, the main difference relating to a £10k drop in our Diocesan share from £50k last year to £40k in 2021. Our Diocesan share remains unchanged at £40k in 2022. Other 'savings' related to a £1k reduction in AOC running costs, reduced repair costs and fewer admin costs and rector expenses, with both Neil & Vickie waiving some of their costs.

Overall our excess of receipts over payments has dropped from c£7k in 2020 to c£3k in 2021.

Anne Simms
Treasurer

ST MARY THE VIRGIN
ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total funds £
Receipts						
Voluntary receipts						
Planned giving		40,368	-	-	40,368	26,901
Collections		5,547	-	-	5,547	11,222
All other giving / voluntary receipts		1,848	154	50	2,052	15,375
Gift Aid recovered		-	-	-	-	9,217
Activities for generating funds		361	-	-	361	6,164
		48,124	154	50	48,328	68,879
Investment income		573	1	1	575	431
Church activities		10,884	-	-	10,884	7,537
Other income		-	-	-	-	-
Sales		-	3,127	-	3,127	4,497
Total receipts		59,581	3,282	51	62,914	81,344
Payments						
Church activities						
Parish share		40,000	-	-	40,000	50,000
Clergy running expenses		1,925	-	-	1,925	2,320
Church running expenses		12,155	-	-	12,155	14,638
Chapel running expenses		-	6,015	-	6,015	7,171
Mission giving and donations		-	-	-	-	-
		54,080	6,015	-	60,095	74,129
Cost of generating funds		110	-	-	110	289
Total payments		54,190	6,015	-	60,205	74,418
Excess of receipts over payments		5,391	(2,733)	51	2,709	6,926
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2021		124,134	19,740	3,021	146,895	139,969
Transfers between funds in the year	6	(441)	441	-	-	-
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2021		129,084	17,448	3,072	149,604	146,895

This financial statement was approved by the Board of Trustees on 15th September 2022 and signed on the part of the Chair of the Board.

Chair of the Board - Chris

2022

ST MARY THE VIRGIN
ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets						
Buildings	3	-	69,622	-	69,622	69,622
Current Assets						
Debtors		-	-	-	-	-
Bank and cash		17,448	53,580	410	71,438	68,666
CBF accounts		-	8,049	2,662	10,711	10,709
		17,448	61,629	3,072	82,149	79,375
Current Liabilities						
Other creditors		-	2,167	-	2,167	2,102
Net current assets		17,448	59,462	3,072	79,982	77,273
Total assets less current liabilities		17,448	129,084	3,072	149,604	146,895

Movement on Funds

	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance carried forward 31/12/2021 £
Restricted	4				
Nepal New Life	1,847	1	-	-	1,848
Church Roof	371	-	-	-	371
Fabric Fund	803	50	-	-	853
	3,021	51	-	-	3,072
Designated	5				
Sunday School	856	-	-	-	856
Sunshine corner	-	-	-	-	-
Choir	-	-	-	-	-
Friends fund	-	-	-	-	-
The Old Chapel	18,884	3,282	(6,015)	441	16,592
	19,740	3,282	(6,015)	441	17,448
General	124,134	59,581	(54,190)	(441)	129,084
Total	146,895	62,914	(60,205)	-	149,604

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 18th September 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Jenny Sirrell - Chair

JAS

NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

- 1 The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- 2 The accounts include Alveley Old Chapel. Although the day to day running is under the control of a manager who maintains its financial records, the ultimate responsibility rests with the PCC.
- 3 The fixed assets are the freehold premises at Alveley Old Chapel at cost.
- 4 The Restricted Funds are listed below:

The Nepal New Life Fund is for donations received for the project which we support in Nepal. A separate charity now exists to channel these funds.

The Church Roof Fund represents accumulated donations for maintenance of the church roof, which can only be spent for that purpose.

The Fabric Fund represents accumulated donations for maintenance of the church fabric, which can only be spent for that purpose.

- 5 The Unrestricted Designated Funds:

Alveley Old Chapel represents the accumulated income and expenditure of Alveley Old Chapel. These are held in a separate bank account, but the Parochial Church Council is the accountable body for them.

The Sunday School fund represents accumulated donations for the Sunday School.

- 6 Transfers:

£441 transfer relates to Alveley Old Chapel's proportion of the combined insurance policy paid for by the PCC.

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St Mary the Virgin, Alveley Parochial Church Council (PCC)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on the attached pages, comprising Receipts and Payments Account, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Notes.

Respective responsibilities of the members and examiner

The charity's trustees, who are the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented in those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



L Dhillon FCCA

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18th September 2022